

X/13 CS - FOOTBALL UNION UPHOLDS EUROPEAN CUP RE-DRAW

GENEVA, SEPT. 9 (RFE SPECIAL /MAHONEY) -- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL UNION TODAY VOTED TO UPHOLD THE DECISION TO RE-DRAW THE EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE EUROPEAN CUP OF CUP WINNERS, FOLLOWING THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE VOTE TO CONFIRM THE EARLIER DECISION WAS 7 TO 2 WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

HOWEVER THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TODAY THAT THE DRAW FOR THE SECOND AND LATE ROUNDS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE NORMAL FASHION, THUS PERMITTING EAST-WEST CONFRONTATIONS.

THE DECISION TO RE-DRAW THE FIRST ROUNDS CAME AFTER THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TOUCHED OFF BOYCOTT THREATS FROM WEST EUROPEAN TEAMS, INCLUDING MILAN, CELTIC OF GLASGOW AND THE ZURICH FOOTBALL CLUB.

WHEN SUCH THREATS ENDANGERED THE EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION, THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL UNION'S URGENCY COMMITTEE MET UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF GUSTAV WIEDERKEHR OF SWITZERLAND AND DECIDED UPON A REDRAWING TO INSURE THAT IN THE FIRST ROUNDS WEST EUROPEAN TEAMS WOULD MEET ONLY OTHER WEST EUROPEAN TEAMS AND THAT EAST EUROPEAN TEAMS WOULD MEET THOSE IN THEIR OWN GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

THE DECISION TOUCHED OFF A WAVE OF PROTESTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE. THE BULGARIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION, THE HUNGARIAN, THE POLISH AND THE SOVIET FEDERATION ALL PROTESTED, CHARGING THAT THE MOVE WAS ILLEGAL UNDER THE PROVISIONS FOR THE COMPETITION.

BUT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOUND OTHERWISE TODAY. IT SAID IN AN STATEMENT THAT:

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